

Crisis Planning & Response

U.S. Embassy Bogota
Warden's Conference
April 12, 2013

What is a crisis?

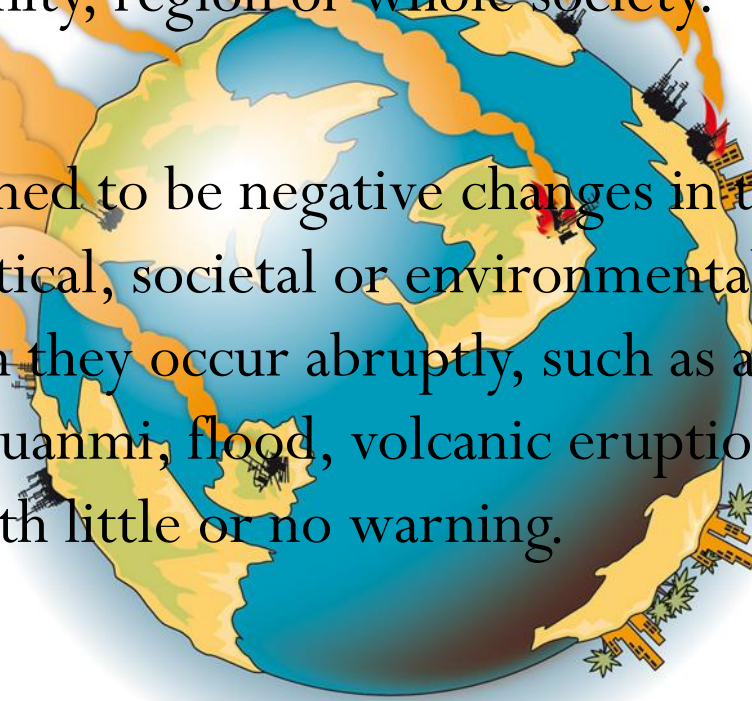
- Natural disasters
- Political unrest
- Military conflict





What is a crisis?

- A crisis is any event that is, or expected to lead to, an unstable and dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, community, region or whole society.
- Crises are deemed to be negative changes in the security, economic, political, societal or environmental affairs, especially when they occur abruptly, such as a natural disaster (Earthquake, tsunami, flood, volcanic eruption, violent storm, etc.) with little or no warning.



Preparing for a Crisis

- **Embassy:** Hold regular EAC meetings and updates tripwires
- **Wardens:**
 - Have contact information for the Embassy and for local emergency responders (law enforcement, fire response, health services, transportation providers, shelters, etc.)
 - Keep up with contacts in local community & local government to help spread the message.



Drawdowns & Evacuations

- **Authorized Departure**

- Nonessential Employees and Family Members may chose to leave post. Private citizens encouraged to leave.

- **Ordered Departure**

- Nonessential Employees and Family Members are required to leave post. Private citizens encouraged to leave.



Wardens assist the Embassy in alerting U.S. Citizens

No Double Standard

- U.S. government policy regarding the dissemination of specific, credible, and non-counterable **threat information** to ensure that both official personnel and private U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad may benefit from receipt of the information.
- Applies to:
 - Travel Warnings & Travel Alerts
 - Demonstration announcements
 - Drawdown & Evacuation information
- **If the Embassy is informed, YOU are informed.**

Discussion



- What are the first things you would do when receiving notice about a crisis from the U.S. Embassy?
- How would you get the word out to U.S. citizens?
- Who would be some useful contacts to be in touch with?
- In your community, where would be a good place for people to gather to be picked up for an evacuation?
- What problems could you anticipate in a worst-case scenario?